AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A plant for handling and stacking thermoformed containers or lids having at least three projections ~~(8a, 8b)~~ acting as stacking spacers, at least one of which is arranged at non specular symmetry with respect to at least a centre line ~~(m-m)~~ of the respective container or lid ~~(2)~~, said plant ~~(1)~~ including, in sequence, a receiving station ~~(3)~~ for a container or lid or a moulding of containers or lids ~~(2)~~, at least a stacking or working station ~~(6)~~ for said containers or lid ~~(2)~~, a stacking station ~~(4)~~ for said containers or lids ~~(2)~~, means ~~(5, 50)~~ of transferring the containers or lids ~~(2)~~ from the receiving station ~~(3)~~ to the stacking station ~~(4)~~ through each working or handling station ~~(6)~~, and is characterized in that at least one of the said handling stations ~~(6)~~ includes handling means ~~(17)~~ arranged to rotate through a predetermined angle every other moulding of containers or lids ~~(2)~~ before or during their transfer to said stacking station ~~(4)~~, thereby obtaining stacks ~~(7)~~ of lids or containers ~~(2)~~, where the stacking spacers ~~(8a, 8b)~~ of a container or lid ~~(2)~~ are angularly offset with respect to those of the next container or lid.

5. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 4, wherein said handling means are comprises a support structure ~~(15,16)~~ and a head or unit ~~(17)~~ for picking up samples of a moulding of thermoformed products ~~(2)~~, which is rotatably supported rotatably and can be lift and

lowered on said support structure ~~(15, 16)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 5, wherein said picking up unit ~~(17)~~ comprises a support member ~~(19)~~ rotatably mounted around a vertical axis on said support structure ~~(15, 16)~~, a multiplicity of spacers ~~(20)~~ carried by said support member ~~(19)~~ and extending downwards, and a holding means ~~(21)~~ carried by each said spacer ~~(20)~~ and spaced apart with respect to the remaining holding means ~~(21)~~ according to the configuration of a moulding of thermoformed products ~~(2)~~ transported by said transfer means ~~(5, 50)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 6, wherein said holding means ~~(21)~~ includes suckers.

8. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 6, including a geared motor unit ~~(18)~~ for controlled rotation of said support member ~~(19)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 6, wherein said support structure includes a fixed support ~~(16)~~, an overhanging arm ~~(15)~~ having one end thereof slidably mounted along at least a vertical guide ~~(16a)~~ on said fixed support ~~(16)~~, and drive means ~~(16b, 16c)~~ to cause said overhanging arm controllably to lift and lower.

10. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 6, wherein said handling means includes a robot ~~(60)~~ having at least an overhanging arm ~~(15)~~ mounted for rotation either around a horizontal axis to carry out raising -lowering movements for said support member ~~(19)~~ or around a vertical axis to transfer mouldings of thermoformed products ~~(2)~~ away from said transfer means ~~(5,50)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 10, wherein said robot comprises drive means (62) and guide means ~~(65)~~ to carry out movements from and to said handling station ~~(6)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 4, wherein said handling means include at least a support template ~~(9a-12a)~~ for a moulding of thermoformed objects ~~(2)~~, a support frame ~~(39-42)~~ carried by said transfer means ~~(5,50)~~ for each support template ~~(9a-12a)~~ and having a circular opening at which a respective template ~~(9a-12a)~~ is rotatably mounted, and drive means for causing said template ~~(9a-12a)~~ controllably to rotate upon control.

13. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 4, wherein said transfer means comprises at least one rotating conveyor ~~(5)~~ with a plurality of arms ~~(9-12)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 4, wherein said transfer means comprises at least one linear conveyer ~~(50)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A plant according to claim 13, comprising a single station thermoforming press ~~(31)~~ with cut and form mould ~~(32)~~ having a suction plate ~~(30)~~ for picking up thermoformed objects ~~(2)~~ thermoformed therein and arranged to discharge mouldings of thermoformed products ~~(2)~~ at said receiving station ~~(3)~~.